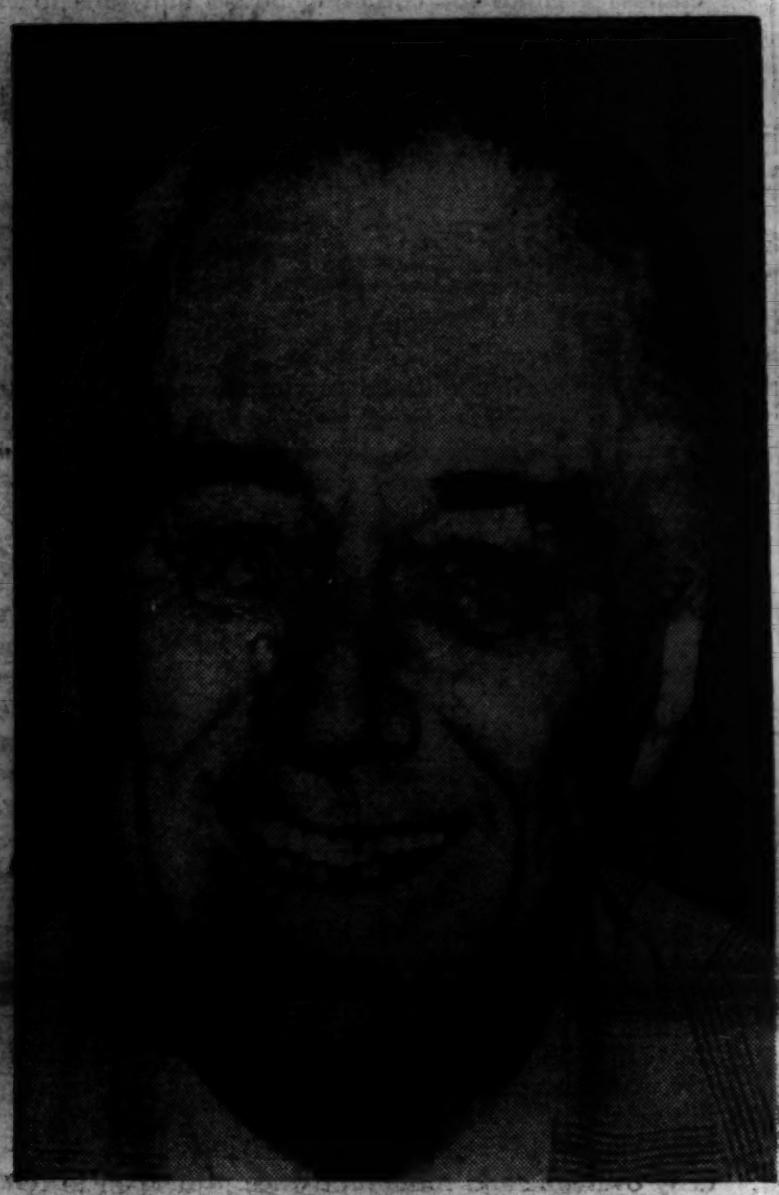
2838
Un33
Ctrl

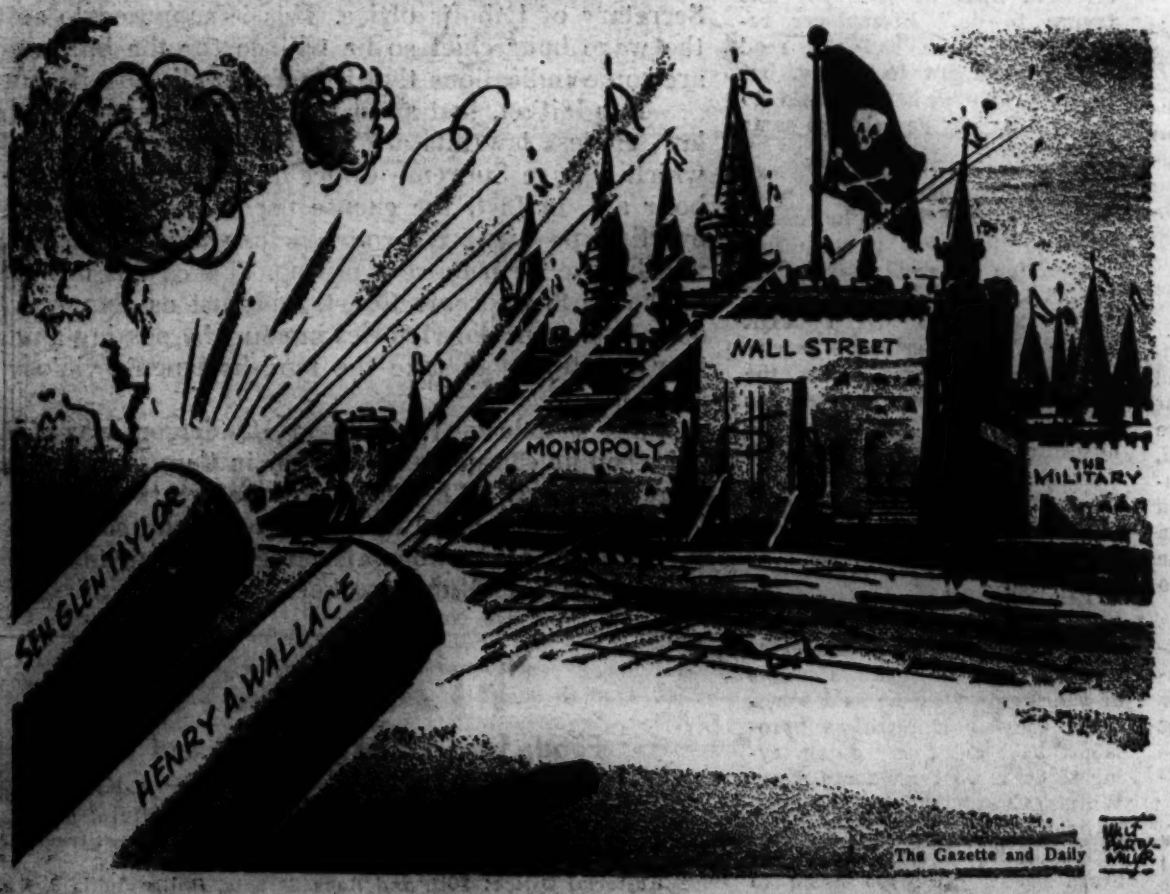
FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VIII, No. 4 | April, 1948 | 68 | Price 5 Cents



In Memoriam FDR. 1882-1945.



Franklin D. Roosevelt, four times President of the United States, tried to even up the balance a little on the side of the workingman. For this he was reviled and cursed and even now his memory is defiled daily in the bosses' press. His successor, Harry Truman, dumped Roosevelt's policies for world peace and security. Today, a new party, with a leader who worked closely with FDR all the years in the White House, has come forward to carry the progressive banner. His name is Henry Wallace, and the workers are building for victory with him in November, '48.

CONGRESS MOVES TO DESTROY WAGE ACT

(Last fall, FTA President Henderson charged that Congress was in a conspiracy to destroy the wage hour act. Senator Ball's bill (S. 2386), analyzed below, proves that FTA was right. Read it and act.)

You remember how they repealed the Wagner Act? It wasn't **repealed**, heaven forbid; it was just **amended a little.** The result was TAFT-HARTLEY. The Senate Labor Committee deliberated solemnly; they heard testimony from labor leaders and sometimes they even pretended to listen.

The House Labor Committee ran a three-ring circus, considering "extreme" measures which the Senate committee deplored. But when the fight was over, the dignified Senate had joined with the House in tearing the Wagner Act to shreds, all in the name of "equalizing" the law, amending it a little here and there with legal traps which left nothing.

The same old Republican-Democratic machine has moved into action on the wage hour law. Point for point the operation is the same. The House Committee held hearings on bills which would destroy all legal requirements to pay overtime after 40 hours. Senate sources thought this was all very extreme and Senator Taft set up a committee headed by Senator Ball to give serious consideration to improving the wage hour law. After all, this is 1948 and there is a 40 cent minimum still on the books.

And all the time NAM propaganda is being pumped into workers in plants and through the press and slick publications telling them how much more money they would make if they don't get overtime after 40 hours just as the NAM told workers how the Wagner Act hurt them.

Now we have it. After months of preparation S 2386, amending the Fair Labor Standards act, was introduced in the Senate March 25 by Senator Ball (R., Minn.). The House Labor Committee is circulating a study of "employment relationships in industry" which is marked super confidential.

The Ball bill repeals the wage hour act, just the way Taft-Hartley repealed the Wagner act. Again we have a lengthy document pretending to amend, fix up, and raise the minimum wage.

THE ATTACK ON OVERTIME PAYMENTS

The major attack is on payment of overtime after 40 hours work. The House Committee's secret report prpooses that shift premiums, incentive payments and all other extra bonus payments be excluded from the hourly rate on which time-and-a-half is calculated.

The Ball bill re-defines the term "regular rate of pay" so that special night work rates other than shift differentials are not included in the "regular rate" on which overtime is calculated. Incentive payments **not connected with profits** are included in the "regular rate," and here the bill very cleverly invites employers to put profit sharing incentives into effect with the guarantee that they won't be included in overtime calculations.

Payment for time **not worked** is excluded from the regular rate; this gives employers the green light to chisel on overtime by paying for meal periods, rest periods, etc., without having to include this time in calculation of overtime.

Senator Ball shows a sudden great interest in union contracts in his bill and sets up lower standards for the "regular rate" in such contracts. These special standards allow phony unions to come in and make agreements cutting down overtime in a way otherwise allowed in the bill. So, the company union can make a deal with the boss to get his overtime for him wholesale.

The bill is full of innumerable other trick clauses on overtime.

COVERAGE OF THE WAGE HOUR LAW

Almost everyone agrees that the "area of production" exemption which takes all wage-hour benefits from food processing workers is senseless and unworkable. The Ball Bill makes it more so by applying it to all employes of an employer declared to be in the area of production. So, a canner could set up an automobile factory next to a cannery in the area of production, and the auto workers would be excluded from all overtime and minimum wage provisions of the law. And of course clerical and other such workers

(Continued on Page 2)

PROOF OF THE PUDDING

Last fall, FTA President Donald Henderson charged Republican and Democratic Congressmen with a conspiracy to "tear the heart out of the wage hour act just as the heart was torn out of the Wagner act by the Taft-Hartley bill."

The Congress, which is supposed to hear the views of all concerned on pending legislation, refused to let Henderson testify. The Congressmen on the House Labor Committee were afraid to let him speak out because they knew the charge was true.

Now the Ball bill (S 2386) proves that Henderson was right and that the Congress has been conspiring to destroy the wage hour act.

The Ball bill undermines time and a half for overtime, limits coverage even more severely than it is now, opens endless avenues for chiselling bosses and fails to rise the minimum appreciably.

FTA's charges have been proved right. The Congressmen were right too, in their way, when they refused to let Henderson appear to make his charges before a public hearing of the committee. Their ears would have burned too close for comfort if they had.

WAGE ACT PLOT

(Continued from Page 1)

employed by an "area of production" employer are out.

Millions of additional workers are excluded from the law by a change in the definition of interstate commerce. A pork barrel deal with irrigation companies makes irrigation workers "agricultural workers."

MINIMUM WAGE

The Ball bill says the minimum wage should be 60 cents an hour. But then again it isn't, because industry committees are set up which can make it anywhere between 50 and 70 cents.

The industry committees can set regional differentials in the minimum wage within one industry. This is an open invitation to employers to move to low wage areas and set up sweatshops. It would legalize the southern wage differentials against which labor and all those who seek to improve living conditions in the South have fought.

Cost of living is not to be considered in setting minimum rates, the industry committees are told. But they are instructed to make allowance for lack of dependents of single workers and variation in the number of wage earners in a family, thus accepting the bosses' old argument that he doesn't have to pay higher wages because all his workers are single girls and housewives working for pin money.

Needless to say, none of the existing exemptions which deny overtime and minimum wage protection to food and tobacco workers are taken out of the law. The exclusion of seamen is continued. The bill plays politics in the Department of Labor by placing the enforcement attorneys in the office of the wage hour administrator instead of in the Secretary of Labor's office. This is supposed to soften up the wage hour chief so he will go for the bill, and there are some indications that it is accomplishing its purpose.

In addition, just as in the case of the portal to portal law, endless lawsuits are invited by provisions in the bill which change Supreme Court interpretations of the wage hour act. In fact, the excuse used to start the attack on overtime payment, is a court victory won by longshoremen which gave them more overtime. This case is now pending in the U. S. Supreme Court, and just as Congress wiped out portal to portal victories in court by passing a new law, they are trying to take the longshoremen's victory away from them.

Our conclusion? President Henderson was right last fall when he charged a conspiracy in Congress to repeal the wage hour act. FTA will testify before the Senate Labor Committee for a $1.00 minimum wage and complete elimination of all exemptions affecting food and tobacco processing and agricultural workers.

FROM WASHINGTON

THE EISENHOWER BUILDUP

By ELIZABETH SASULY

The strangest aspect of the Eisenhower for president talk is the spectacle of CIO leaders' open and behind the scenes maneuvering to get the general to run on the Democratic ticket.

These leaders, who thought they were putting Wallace supporters on the spot when they led the CIO Executive Board majority in voting to condemn the new Wallace independent party movement now find themselves in a position which should give any labor leader nightmares.

The Democratic party is falling to pieces in plain sight of anyone who has eyes to see, with southern Bilbo followers taking over the biggest chunk. The Wallace-Taylor party is moving from victory to victory in which large numbers of workers in the very unions whose officers denounced Wallace play an important part.

These victories aren't just talk; they are hard political facts you can't argue with: 482,000 signatures on Wallace petitions in California; the overwhelming vote of Wallace-backed Leo Isacson in New York which brought a new American Labor party congressman to Washington, 1,000 labor delegates at the Illinois Independent Party convention, and so on.

What is a poor labor leader who denounced Wallace a few months ago to do? He can't go for the Republicans, but here is the general who seems to have turned down the Republicans. He said he wouldn't run, but he managed to leave the door open. For weeks the Eisenhower boom cooked in CIO backrooms. National CIO officials scurried around trying to remember something good the general had said. But the trouble was he hadn't said anything.

While this was an embarrassing state of affairs, some CIO officials must look back on it longingly. Because when the general finally opened his mouth to commit himself, virtually everything he said turned out opposed to what is supposed to be CIO policy.

When Gen. Eisenhower testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the draft and compulsory military training, he covered a lot more than his support for this militarization program. He talked off the cuff and very fast. Your Washington representative can testify that he sounded as if he meant what he was saying. Here is the record:

1. He not only supported continued segregation in the armed forces; he repeated the most vicious lies peddled by the "white supremacy" boys. He said, ". . . the Negro is less well educated than his brother citizen that is white . . . if you make a complete amalgamation . . . the Negro is going to be relegated to the minor jobs."

Just to make sure the committee undestood, the general charitably remarked: "I believe that a Negro can improve his standing and his social standing and his respect for certain of the standards that we observe."

2. Opposition to FEPC—a law which would give all races equal job opportunities—is also part of the general's program. He said: ". . . if we attempt merely by passing a lot of laws to force someone to like someone else, we are going to get into trouble." He dug up the musty old employers' argument that "education" without laws will solve these problems.

3. The general took a smack at all workers and unions now fighting for wage increases on the picket lines and in negotiations by supporting Baruch's call for wage ceilings. He said: "I want to put myself on record as supporting with every bit of my strength what he (Baruch) was trying to do." Eisenhower remarked that he had not read Baruch's current testimony, but said, "I know what he used to say and I think he said the same things now."

4. Gen. Eisenhower does want some laws, even though he doesn't seem to like laws to stop discrimination in employment. HE WANTS LAWS TO MOBILIZE OUR COUNTRY NOW FOR WAR. UMT and selective service are the first steps. Then, the General said he would like laws on the books for industrial mobilization, "giving a responsible department or bureau the right to go ahead with the necessary preliminary preparations and instructions."

Yes, the labor leaders who tried to hide behind the General's smile and to remember conversations they had with him a couple of years ago when he said something they interpreted as "pro-labor" have had rough going trying to dress up these facts. Even William Green, who had previously lined up with ADA supporters of the general, has found this brass hat a little too much to swallow. He pointed out that the general has not seen fit to oppose Taft-Hartley and asked just what made some labor leaders go ga-ga over him.

The voice with the smile was gone for awhile when General Eisenhower told the people where he really stands.

FTA NEWS

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

Published monthly by the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America, CIO, at 47 Walker Street, New York 13, N. Y.

Editorial Office: 20th and Race Streets, Philadelphia 3, Pa.

Donald Henderson.....General President
Armando Valdes,....Acting Secretary-Treasurer
Vice-Presidents: Lewis Bentzley, Robert Latham, Armando Ramirez - Organiz. Dir.: John Tisa
C. W. Fowler.....Editor

Subscription: $1 a year to non-members

"Reentered as second class matter Oct. 7, 1947, at the post office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

Vol. VIII April, 1948 No. 4

In The Locals

Leave Town, AFL Urged

American Tobacco Co. workers in Charleston, S.C., are inviting AFL organizers to stop hindering them in their progress toward an improved contract.

That's putting it politely. Actually what they're asking the AFL stooges to do is leave town, and quick. The request came in a leaflet issued by Local 15 which said:

"You are responsible for ATC workers not signing a new contract . . . You are responsible for ATC workers not receiving a wage increase February 20 . . . You are responsible for ATC workers receiving a smaller pay envelope each week.

"For this you have disgraced yourselves . . . So, the only decent thing for you to do is take a train and beat it out of Charleston."

P.S. Chances are good that AFL disrupters will take 15's advice. Hundreds of ATC workers are signing up in FTA, and the AFL is definitely afraid to face an election.

647 Wins Contract

Union shop, bonuses for workers on increased sales, and other gains were won in a new contract signed by Local 647 with the diNobili Cigar Co. in Long Island City, N. Y.

Contract renewal came when the local signed up the members 100 percent in a special checkoff authorization drive. The shop is owned by an Italian national, and is administered by the U. S. Alien Property Custodian. The contract must therefore be approved by the U.S. Attorney-General's office.

Many of the workers at diNobili have seniority going back as far as 1906, 1907 and 1908. Three other shops under the same local—Palumbo, Lupo and Altieri, all makers of Italian style cigars, have agreed to similar contracts which are now being negotiated.

Cemetery Men Strike

Flat refusal of the Forest Home cemetery in Milwaukee, Wis., to negotiate a contract has forced a strike by FTA cemetery workers in Local 191.

The union has asked for a 25 cent increase. The cemetery is owned by the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which, since it pays no taxes or social security and theoretically operates on a non-profit basis, can well afford to give the raise. Other cemeteries in the area have given up to 17 cent increases.

The usual Taft-Hartley red herring was brought out by the owners, but the workers refused to rise to the "communism" bait.

The Milwaukee area also reports negotiation of a contract with the United Milk Products Co. of Osseo. Reported gains are a 15 cent raise, sick leave and other points.

Local 102 Starts Early

FTA Local 108, Corinth, Miss., believes in the old saying about early birds and worms. They're starting already to work on their contract negotiations which come up next fall. Members are paying a voluntary assessment of 50 cents a week into a strike and welfare fund. Of the 50 cents, 12.5 goes into the strike fund and the rest to welfare.

The Buckeye Cotton Oil Co. of Corinth, where the local is strong, has an insurance plan, but it does not operate during a strike. Hence the workers' foresighted action.

FTA Tops In Rankinland

Top wages for cotton oil mills in central Mississippi were won by FTA at the Buckeye Co. in Greenwood. Leaders at this plant are Negro veterans who last year beat off a Ku Klux Klan attempt to break up their union through terror. The plant is part of FTA amalgamated Local 129, with headquarters in Greenville.

At the same time, unification of cotton oil mills in three Mississippi cities—Jackson, Port Gibson and Vicksburg—is proceeding.

Learning The Hard Way

Some bosses seem to prefer learning the hard way. That's the only conclusion you can come to about Stokeley Foods, Inc., of Oakland, Calif. They've just been ordered to pay $7,500 damages to a worker they pushed around in 1946, because he was a Negro and he was for FTA.

The lesson was a simple one: a Negro cannery worker has the right to question a $10 shortage in his pay envelope without being beaten up by plant guards.

The worker, Doc Jefferson, Jr., now of Orange, Tex., was active in the FTA campaign in the northern California canneries two years ago. That was the drive in which cannery workers were trying to get out from under the Teamsters iron heel. Doc Jefferson took an active part in the drive.

One day, when he came to collect a final pay, he found it was short. He protested, and a brutal beating followed. Brother Jefferson took the case to FTA attornies, who took it to court.

Now Stokeley Foods has to cough up $7,500 damages. Crime doesn't pay—always.

Protest Police Killing

Wanton police killing of an Arizona youth was protested by FTA Local 168 in Tolleson, which is carrying the protest to all labor and civic organizations in the state.

The boy, a Mexican youth of 18 who had been a field worker, was shot while allegedly "attempting to escape" by two Phoenix detectives, Gordon Selby and Ed Langevin. The shooting was done when the boy was trapped on a rooftop without possibility of escape.

President Alex M. Juarez of Local 168 adds: "At this time when Mayor Busey is calling for a city FEPC, he should be called on to prove his desire to protest civil rights of minorities. He should conduct a full investigation of the case and bring these officers to justice."

GET YOUR STRIKE-BREAKING DONE FREE—AT U.S. TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE

By C. W. Fowler

Last November the members of the Salt River Valley division of Local 78 went on strike in the lettuce packing sheds around Phoenix, Arizona. Between Arizona and California's Imperial Valley, the local packs much of the fresh fruit and vegetables consumed in the east. At the height of the season, it has about 12,000 members.

The strike hung tough. Baseball bat squads worked over the pickets. The Governor called out the National Guard. Women strikers were stabbed. The strikers got hungry, but they stuck it out.

Then they began to notice a spreading buzz of back-to-work talk in the union. The signing of Taft-Hartley affidavits suddenly became an issue. The demand was raised — sign with Taft-Hartley and end the strike, no matter what terms the bosses ask.

Local 78 has a long record of militant fighting. The workers had to fight the vigilantes to a standstill in 1936 and 37 when the union was built—in fact, the struggle is the subject of thousands of pages of testimony in the LaFollette Civil Liberties committee reports.

The rank and file workers were puzzled at the back-to-work talk and the Taft-Hartley affidavit campaign, until one member, who had been with the union from the beginning, gave the tipoff.

This worker, Charles Law, gave national FTA officers the first inkling that the FBI was involved in trying to break the strike.

Law told this story: early in 1947, before the fall lettuce "deal" (season) two FBI agents visited him and asked him to drop in to see the FBI director in Phoenix. Law went.

The director was polite and friendly. The two agents were smooth, well dressed young men, also polite and friendly. They told Law that "subversives" were trying to get control of the unions and through them, of the nation, and since he was a patriotic American, he would want to help stop this.

A decade ago, strikebreaking and labor spying was a private business—strictly free enterprise. It used to cost the corporations plenty of money, too, between what the Pearl Bergoffs and the Chowderhead Cohens charged and what they stole.

Nowadays the union busting employer can get the job done free, with the taxpayer footing the bill. The United States government, in the form of the FBI, has moved in and nationalized the labor spy racket.

It has happened already to one of the largest local unions in the west, and it can happen to any union—unless the members learn how to combat this new FBI technique of forcing a sellout settlement in a strike.

The director made Law a proposition: he was to stay active in the union and work for the FBI at the same time. For $50 a week and the honor of serving his country he was to give the FBI the names of fellow members he thought were "communists" or "party-liners."

A communist, the director explained, was any worker who "agitates strikes or disputes" or raises wage demands or criticizes the government.

The director also promised to "get rid of" any enemies Law had in the union.

Law told the FBI men he was no stoolpigeon and refused.

A few weeks later, a local member who had been demanding loudly that the union sign up with Taft-Hartley blurted out in a meeting: "I know what my record is with the FBI. I've seen it and I'm not afraid to sign an affidavit."

Then a woman worker came to FTA regional director Jack Montgomery with a troubled conscience. She too had been asked to work for the FBI and had consented, even through they offered her no pay. Soon she found out that she was being followed by other people she had seen in the FBI office. She found out too that the most vociferous back-to-work advocates were also FBI informers.

When she joined in a protest against anti-picketline violence at the sheriff's office, an FBI man met her at the door and told her they no longer wanted her help.

The FBI showed the mailed fist a little later when the same woman signed charges against a union official. An agent warned her not to attend the trial or press the charges, telling her that "trigger-happy" young veterans were behind the Taft-Hartley sign-up drive and that there would be shooting at the trial, if it went through.

About the same time, a man was heard to brag: "Sure I'm in contact with the FBI. I go down there almost every day and have a talk. They're very friendly, a nice buch of guys."

The payoff came when the employers presented their terms for settling the strike. They were harsh: no seniority; scabs to be kept on the job; sign up with Taft-Hartley. Any worker "not deemed by the company necessary to the proper conduct of the company's operations" could be fired without recourse.

The members protested. Some individuals on the negotiating committee fidgeted. One got up to explain. It seems they had been told they would be considered "subversive" if they didn't recommend the contract. "I'm scared of being called a subversive," he admitted, "but I can't swallow this contract."

Unfortunately the members, their strike undermined by FBI intervention, had to swallow the contract. The employers were adamant.

The work of the FBI in Local 78 can be repeated in other unions and other strikes. FBI men are reported at work in the coal fields and in union political campaigns, especially in New York City. They called on Philip Murray in Washington not long ago.

Pearl Bergoff and Chowderhead Cohen are dead, but their work goes on, with the FBI taking over. Government has invaded one more field of free enterprise —strikebreaking.

AFL ASKS FBI AID AGAINST FTA

(see story above)

While rank and file FTA workers in Arizona and California are fighting FBI attempts to cram a Taft-Hartley contract down their throats, the AFL's "National Farm Labor Union" is running to the FBI with demands for action against FTA workers in the Florida citrus industry.

This gross betrayal of the workers' interests was made public in an item in "Farm Labor News," official organ of the Natl. Farm Labor Union published in Washington, D. C.

Protest against this new attempt at union-busting was sent to FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, bringing the pious reply that FBI is not "interested in receiving information dealing with the activities of labor unions as such."

Hoover's words, however, are belied by the actions of his FBI agents and in fact by his own attitude toward unions he considers "communist infiltrated."

The Natl. Farm Labor Union, headed by the discredited H. L. Mitchell, has a long record of collaboration with employers to disrupt FTA. Back in 1946, FTA President Donald Henderson exposed a conspiracy between Mitchell and the Campbell Soup Company to disrupt FTA in Camden, N. J. and Chicago, just as it was in negotiations for a new contract. Prompt exposure broke up the plot and brought a renewal of the contract favorable to the workers.

Back in 1939 this same Mitchell was ejected from the UCAPAWA, predecessor of FTA, and from the CIO for disruptive actions when he was head of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

The item in "Farm Labor News" reveals quite frankly what Mitchell's group is up to, when it boasts of circulating a leaflet asking workers to report to the FBI if they see any FTA organizing activity.

The item also calls the workers at the Dade City, Fla. Pasco cannery "captives of the communists dominated FTA-CIO" and boasts that a petition is being circulated "requesting the U. S. Government to remove the CP-FTA union from their plant."

The real facts in the Pasco plant at Dade City are these: FTA won an election there by better than 11 to 1 in 1946. Immediately following the election, Pasco workers ratified an FTA contract bringing them a 30 cent an hour wage increase, guaranteed overtime pay, seniority, paid vacations and holidays and other gains previously unknown in the Florida citrus industry.

Naturally these gains disturb the Florida citrus employers. And, just like the New Jersey cannery employers, they call in a phony outfit like the "Natl. Farm Labor Union" in the attempt to disrupt.

The weapon the employers rely on most heavily nowadays is red-baiting, raising the cry of "communism" against genuine unions. In this, they have now enlisted the aid of the FBI—despite Mr. Hoover's pious words—and the AFL. Arizona, California, Florida, the pattern is the same.

FTA HITS ARMY DRAFT AS 'FAKE WAR ALARM'

Compulsory military training and the draft are being forced on the American people through a "fake crisis" created by the bankers and the brasshats, FTA President Donald Henderson told the Senate Armed Services committee this week.

"The men pushing these policies are the generals whose business it is to make war and the big business interests who for profits seek to stifle the people's rights everywhere, just as they restric' the rights of working people here through Taft-Hartley and other restrictive laws," he said.

The fake crisis is built on two falsehoods, Henderson added. First, that the Soviet Union wants to attack the United States and second, that "the efforts of the people of Europe and Asia to choose their own form of government and to free themselves from political and economic slavery are a threat to our security."

The real purpose behind both these smokescreens is not to protect the American people but to protect U. S. big business profits, he explained.

"In the economic reshuffling after World War II, American interests have seized the initiative in Europe, the Middle East, South America and the Pacific areas to capture markets formerly held by other countries.

"One of the most critical dangers facing this country is the danger that American troops will have to go along to protect the claims staked out by such companies as American-Arabian Oil."

The war scare—of which compulsory militarization and the draft are a part—also has other uses, Henderson pointed out, such as the awarding of juicy war contracts to act as a hedge against a depression.

He quoted the Journal of Commerce as saying frankly: "As far as business is concerned, any sizable increase in military expenditures could provide the "shot in the arm' which in the opinion of most economists would be needed to offset the probability of a 1948 business slump."

Henderson criticized strongly the plans to keep jim crow and segregation in the armed forces, pointing out that General Eisenhower, War Secretary Kenneth Royall and other brasshats had given this segregation their unqualified approval.

"On behalf of all our members, I submit that no plan of military training or draft which embodies discrimination and oppression can claim a democratic purpose."

Finally, he said, the Baruch plan, which calls for a wage freeze and compulsory labor along with the draft and military training, is a threat to all labor standards.

"Militarization of the nation's youth through UMT and the draft can provide one of the bases for conquest from within our own country by fascist forces.

"American workers have had the bitter experience of 'emergencies' created to allow their employers to reap larger profits. They know that the presence of unnecessarily large bodies of troops can provide a ready reservoir to be used in breaking strikes."

FTA AIDS FARMERS

A joint meeting of FTA workers and tomato farmers in the areas serving the Campbell Soup Company was suggested this week by FTA Regional Director Herbert Kling. Kling made the suggestion in the interest of helping the farmers get a "fair break in their contract" with the giant cannery.

The proposal came as Campbell Soup was attempting to cut the price paid per ton of tomatoes by $3.00, despite the fact that farmers' costs have gone up, not down, since the previous year.

"Campbell Soup management's claim that retail food prices will be down next fall, and that therefore the growers should take a cut now is preposterious," Kling said.

"Even if this prophecy were true, the growers should not be asked to sacrifice their investment and their living standards now for future Campbell Soup profits, which are already enormous. What the growers and the community need is not a cut in contract prices but a raise."

$94,000,000 SALMON INDUSTRY THROWS THE BOOK AT LOCAL 7

By Will Parry

Cannery Workers Local 7, FTA-CIO, is fighting for its life.

Against its 3,500 embattled members are ranged the tightly-knit Alaska Salmon Industry, Inc., their stooges and disrupters in a company-dominated dual union, and all the labor-busting power the Taft-Hartley Act gave the courts and the NLRB.

The packers grossed $94,000,000 in 1947, an all time high. From atop this pile of money they are firing one weapon after another from the Taft-Hartley arsenal at Local 7. But officers and the rank and file are hanging tough. Says Business Agent Ernie Mangaoang:

"The membership knows the language that the industry will understand: the blunt warning that unless they begin to bargain in good faith they won't get any salmon canned.

"We're about ready to serve that notice now. And if we're forced to strike, we'll do it with the knowledge that our picket lines will be recognized and respected by other unions in the industry and by the traditionally militant maritime unions of the Northwest."

The salmon packers' dream is to bust up every trade union they deal with. Sniffing the Taft-Hartley atmosphere they began with Cannery Workers Local 7 for several reasons.

They know Local 7 is a key union in the salmon industry. You don't proceed and can "reds" and "humps" without the skilled fingers of Local 7's members. And the profit rate is low on uncanned salmon.

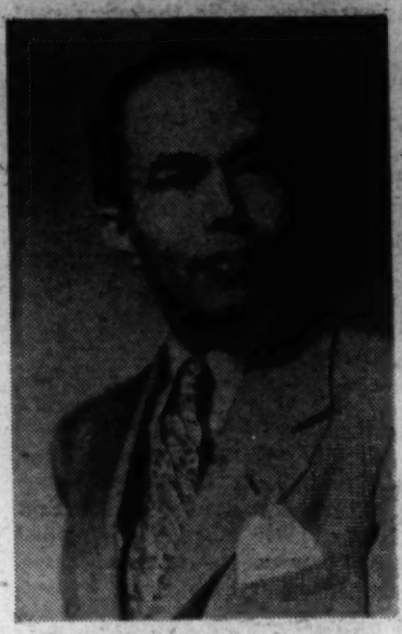
The industry figured that Local 7's membership, scattered in winter months across California and Arizona fruit belts, would be hard to hold together and easy to disorganize.

They knew that company stooges within the union—who last year sought to dissolve the local entirely—would be on hand for new wrecking plans.

And they knew the courts and the NLRB were itching to get their fists clamped around the affairs of bona fide unions.

This was their union-busting strategy:

They helped their agents among cannery employes—most of them cannery foremen—to shape up the so-called Seafood Workers Union, "independent." The existence of the SWU, they figured, would provide them with a pretext for questioning Local



Jailed: Matias Lagunilla, senior trustee of Local 7, went to jail rather than yield to an anti-labor judge's demand that he surrender the books and records of his union for inspection by attorneys for a company-dominated rival outfit. "I'd go to jail any time for my union," Lagunilla declared.

7's bargaining rights, although these had been admitted for 11 years.

The SWU's paper existence would also give them an excuse for withholding check-off dues money from Local 7, and would provide the packers with a handy employe "front" group to bring court actions and go before the Taft-Hartley NLRB.

Next the employers took to the courts. In one action they sought to dissolve the union and distribute its funds among the membership. In a second suit they sought to tie up the $60,000 in dues money which was the local's entire 1947 income, in order to break the union financially.

The industry's Taft-Hartley blows have chiefly succeeded in stinging the local's membership into a fighting mettle. The Cannery Workers have not been tempered in ten years of militant struggle for nothing. In the courts, in negotiations, and if necessary on the picket lint the membership is determined to battle this one through to victory.

Welding the ranks, FTA organizers have signed up 2,500 workers in Stockton, Cal., asparagus fields as members of a sub-local. Most of these workers will come north for salmon cannery jobs early in May. They'll come as members of Cannery Workers Local 7, not as Seafood Workers.

A little background on the careers of those who now reign as king-pins of the Seafood Workers is necessary.

For example, one of the officers, Max Gonzales, cannery foreman and now self-appointed business agent of the SWU, effectively sold out the 1946 strike at a time when united AFL-CIO-Independent Machinists' backing had assured substantial gains.

Gonzales was later convicted in court for having shot at Matias Lagunilla when the latter stood up in union meeting and demanded an explanation from Gonzales of some of his actions.

Cornelio Briones, another officer at that time, now president of the little clique of dissidents in the rival union, attended the University of Washington for six months while on the full-time payroll of the union.

Finally, the executive council then in power—most of whom are now Seafood Workers officials—voted to dissolve the union and divide the assets among three trustees of their own choosing. At the same time they sought to misappropriate $5,000 of union funds to fight the legal battle they knew they would face with FTA.

Because of this long record of union-wrecking activity, the international union took over the affairs of the local and removed all officers. They appointed a committee of 10 to administer the local until an election could be held under provisions of the international constitution.

Meanwhile in Seattle the union has been fighting for opening of bona fide negotiations with the industry, even while continuing the uneven battle in the courts.

As Business Agent Mangaoang commented acidly: "This case, if the Seafood Workers and the industry win, will set a slave act precedent affecting every trade union in the country. A victory for them would mean that any group of employer agents in any union could go to court and demand its dissolution and tie up that union in expensive litigation from now till hell freezes over."

The salmon industry-instigated court actions have already given a bitter foretaste of the medicine the law can be expected to dish out in Taft-Hartley times. In seeking to dissolve Local 7 the SWU officials found themselves without evidence. So they asked for and got an order from Judge Jones demanding that Local 7 turn over its records to Seafood Worker attorneys.

Local 7's executive board voted flat refusal, and the membership backed them solidly. Jones retaliated by jailing Senior Trustee Matias Lagunilla, who had custody of the union books, on charges of contempt of court.

This is only a small part of a big mass meeting of FTA Local 7 asaparagus workers meeting in Stockton, California, where an organizing drive is under way. Kneeling in the front row, from left are: N. Rudio; M. Itliong; E. Mangoang, business manager of Local 7; FTA Asst. Regional Director Robert Kinney; Local Treasurer C. L. Camarillo; Local 7 News Editor Chris Mensalvas; Vice-Presidents Ray Cabanilla and Narciso Mariano. Third from left in second row is Stockton Branch Agent Pablo Valdez.

Money? It's Bad For You

Dr. Emerson Schmidt, of Washington, D.C. is the chief economist of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Dr. Schmidt testified at length last year against increasing the 40 cent minimum in the wage-hour act, said it was "bad for people."

Now comes Dr. Emerson Schmidt testifying on the cost of living before the Senate Banking and Currency Committee. A Senator on the committee reminds Dr. Schmidt of the story of the Waud family—the FTA worker with six children and $50 a week. "That is a serious problem" says the Senator.

Dr. Schmidt: "That is right. You always have those cases. We have it in depression and we have it in prosperity. The poor we have with us always. There is probably no escape."

Now this sounds pretty gloomy, but Dr. Schmidt sees a ray of hope, as he adds: "Of course, we must remember, too, that today the average family has 1.4 breadwinners. So the situation for many people is not so bad as one might suppose."

Dr. Schmidt, like so many economists, failed to explain how a family can divide itself into one and four tenths of anything. But then, perhaps he doesn't care.

Senator Glen H. Taylor, of Idaho and Henry A. Wallace, Progressive party candidates for Vice-President and President of the United States, grin happily just after Taylor had announced his candidacy as Wallace's running mate.

PEACE AND FREEDOM PERILED BY TRUSTS

"America is a land made great by the arts of peace and the practice of freedom.

"Today a small group of powerful men would force the American people to abandon both peace and freedom.

"We call upon the American people to demonstrate to the warmakers that we want no wars or warmaking but a return to the ways of peace and freedom."

With these words, the National Wallace for President Committee, meeting with 1,000 labor delegates in Chicago, launched an "enlist for peace" drive to rouse the people against the warmakers.

"The security and peace of the American people are not threatened from abroad," the statement continued. "No invaders would attack the greatest and most powerful nation in the world, equipped with the deadliest weapons man has constructed.

"But our peace and our security and our traditional system of liberties are menaced by war hysteria.

"Under cover of war hysteria, political bankruptcy seeks to retrieve its losses, monopoly to maintain its profits, and militarists their dominance.

"They join in a campaign to frighten the American people into the belief that war is inevitable. They would silence critics and deprive them of their civil rights in an atmosphere of hostility. They would put a curtain of fear over the minds of all citizens."

Declaring that "war is not inevitable," the call for action went on to list these steps for all workers and citizens to undertake:

1. Demand defeat of the draft and compulsory military training in Congress.

2. Protest "the wasteful expenditure of our money for new arms in a world weary of old arms."

3. Demand an end to warmaking hysteria and a return to peaceful cooperation among the nations through the United Nations.

"The militarists and monopolists preach that war is inevitable, war against a great ally in the coming struggle, not three years over, to free mankind from the fears of war and oppression," the committee said.

"They would make us spend our substance for new weapons of destruction, convert our science into a search for new death, discipline and regiment the minds of our young people, convert the workshops of peace into factories of war, impose ever growing burdens on our people in the cultivation of warlike qualities alien to our American traditions."

All this, the committee pointed out, for the sake of superprofits. By enlisting for peace, the millions of American workers and their allies can stop and reverse the drive to World War III.

FTA, OTHER UNIONS SETTING UP WALLACE LABOR COMMITTEES

Working with more than 1,000 delegates from unions all over the U. S., FTA representatives at the national Wallace conference in Chicago moved to set up Labor Wallace for President committees throughout the U. S. this month.

Nationally, the Wallace labor committee is headed by President A. J. Fitzgerald of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, with FTA President Donald Henderson on the executive board.

Similar committees are in the process of being set up in the states, counties, Congressional districts and wards where workers are concentrated.

Purpose of the committees is to mobilize workers to support the Wallace-Glen Taylor ticket and to work and vote for progressive party candidates in their communities.

"Every mine, mill and factory and office in America should have an active Wallace-Taylor committee," the statement adopted at the Chicago conference said.

"Wherever a local union endorses the candidacy of Wallace and Taylor, then that local union furnishes the framework of the Wallace-Taylor committee in their plant or plants.

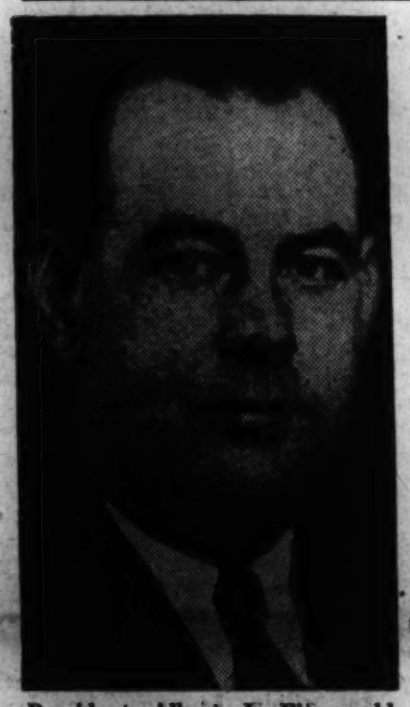
"Where such official union endorsement has not been given, labor committees should be created in every plant to carry on the tasks outlined above. The coordination of these plant committees should be through the state organization. In larger cities, it will be desirable to set up community-wide labor committees for Wallace."

Blasting the bi-partisan reactionary policies of both the Republican and the Democratic parties, the committee's first public statement added:

"Only Wallace and Taylor speak out for unconditional repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act; for a $1.00 an hour minimum pay guaranteed by law; for wage increases for workers; for strong price and rent control; for public housing; for full protection of everyone's civil rights and a real fight for peace through international cooperation."

The committee sharply criticized labor leaders and liberals who say that labor should try to capture the Democratic party because the Republicans are so much worse. It also attacked the "frantic search for a 'new look' in the Democratic party" by the Eisenhower boom.

"No candidate supported by this reactionary political alliance and supporting the Truman policies of war preparation, universal military training, peacetime draft, strikebreaking, double talk on Negro rights, betrayal of the United Nations and Palestine and assaults on political freedom can have the support of labor."



President Albert J. Fitzgerald of the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, CIO, who has been elected chairman of the National Labor Committee for Henry Wallace. Fitzgerald recently resigned as vice-chairman of CIO-PAC.

194 PUSHES NEW PARTY

Reasons for new party activity and for pushing the election of Henry Wallace were brought down to earth in a statement by Local 194 President John Gallacher this week.

Commenting on the arrogant refusal of the Campbell Soup Co. to increase wages, Gallacher said:

"The company's attitude in negotiations shows that they feel sure of themselves with the weapon that has been put into their hands by the Congress, namely the Taft-Hartley act.

"This leaves us with no alternative but to take this weapon away from the company. The only way this can be done is for all workers in the plant to do a job in November, and to do the job inside the plant in full cooperation with your union for the betterment of all.

Local 194 members showed how they intend to do the job when they helped jam the Chicago Stadium with over 20,000 men and women who came to hear Wallace after the national conference in that city.

Commenting on the turnout, Local 194's publication "The Voice" said: "The old-line politicians of the Democratic and Republican parties were stunned at these demonstrations of Progressive Party strength."

HARBOR BEACH STRIKE SOLID; LOCAL 20 WORKERS NEED AID

FTA strikers at the Harbor Beach, Mich. plant of the Huron Milling Co. are solid on the picketlines after more than three weeks of the walkout, but they need contributions in cash and food, Regional Director Warren Horie reports.

The strike began in late March when the company broke off negotiations with the classic statement: "We will negotiate an agreement with you provided you don't ask for any wage increases."

Acting promptly, the 385 workers voted strike in compliance with state laws by an overwhelming majority. Relief for the strikers was organized as soon as the walkout began.

"Friendship trucks" rolled through Michigan and Ohio collecting donations from FTA and other sympathetic CIO local unions. Contributions have come, among others, from FTA Locals 55; 300; 297; 61; 58; 179, etc.

Issues of the strike are a 25 cent raise; time and a half for Saturday and double time for Sunday work; seniority and job security. As Local 20 President Harold L. Richards puts it:

"For 67 years our company has dominated and bullied not only its own employes but the people of this small town as well.

"Not long ago, before we began our fight for liberation by voting for FTA, we were paid in script, usable only in the company store. We had a 12 hour day, seven day week.

"We have come a long way from those bitter hard times, but now the company has begun its drive with what help they can muster from the Taft-Hartley law and the state little Taft-Hartley law, the Bonine-Tripp act, to return us to a state of peonage."

Contributions should be sent to Russ DeFrain, Local 20, FTA, Harbor Beach, Mich.

FTA help goes to the family of Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram, of Georgia, who was first sentenced to death and then to life imprisonment with two of her children for the "crime" of self-defense against a murderous attack. President Henderson hands Mrs. Amy Hunt, Mrs. Ingram's mother, a check for the defense fund while others of Mrs. Ingram's family look on. *(Prodigal Son photo)*

What do people mean; it's full of lies.... Don't they ever look at the racing results?

FLORIDA FTA LEARNS ONLY THE AIR IS FREE

(According to Lake County Sheriff Willis McCall, only the air is free for leaflet distribution. FTA organizers, denied the right to distribute on the ground, took to the air in a plane and brought the Bill of Rights to Lake County.)

Sheriff Willis McCall stirred up more than a hornets' nest in Lake county, Florida when leaflets issued by the FTA Florida Citrus Workers Council were dropped by plane over all towns in the county. The leaflets blasted McCall's "gestapo technique" in his attempts to stop the organization of citrus grove workers by FTA.

The sheriff's union-busting campaign when FTA organizers came into Lake County at the request of grove workers who had stopped work because of a 20% wage cut. Three thousand workers in Lake County and neighboring Orange (Orlando), Seminole, and Pasco counties were in the walkout protesting the wage cut.

The sheriff's first move came on the night of March 29 when McCall and two of his deputies went into and interfered with an open meeting of 200 grove workers and after failing to stop 76 of those present from joining the union, held John G. Lackner and Leslie F. Kirby, Jr., Dade City FTA organizers, and Mrs. Sarah Adair Kirby without any warrants or specified charges.

McCall commandeered Lackner's car, without any warrant and without giving any specific reason for doing so, and forced him to drive the car to Eustis, Florida, escorted by a caravan of police cars, including state highway patrol cars. Questioned there, Lackner and Kirby refused to turn over a list of workers who had joined the union at the meeting, despite the Sheriff's request to do so.

Following their refusal to turn over the list of names, Lackner, Kirby and Mrs. Kirby were released and told to stay out of Lake county—or else—and were given a police escort to show them the way out of the county.

The next day, on March 30, Eric Axelrod, a volunteer FTA organizer, who was driving from Orlando to Dade City, stopped in Mt. Dora to distribute leaflets to grove workers. Axelrod and three Orlando grove workers who were assisting him distribute the leaflets were arrested and thrown in the Lake county jail at Tavares.

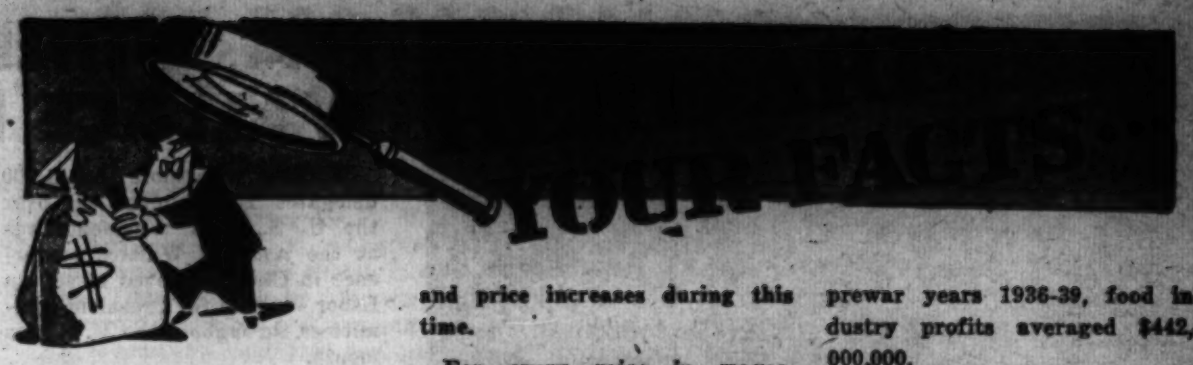
The three workers with Axelrod were later released but Axelrod was held on an "intimidation" charge of having allegedly threatened that grove workers who worked for the cut rate would be "shot out of the trees." Axelrod did not even have so much as a pocket-knife when arrested.

Later, Sheriff McCall took Axelrod from his Lake county jail cell, handcuffed him and paraded him through the various Negro sections of Lake county towns and through some packing houses.

On April 2nd Axelrod was freed when his father, a Dallas, Texas, manufacturer, flew to Florida in his defense. This same afternoon in a telephone conversation, McCall again told Leslie Kirby to stay out of Lake county, saying: "Do you know what I mean . . . If you don't . . . You had better know what I mean . . . "

The Florida Citrus Workers Council leaflets dropped to the people of Lake county by plane said "the only intimidation campaign in Lake county . . . backed up by guns . . . and threat sof shooting . . . was the campaign which Sheriff McCall directed from the Sheriff's office in Tavares."

Concerning the Lake county situation, FTA Organizer John Lackner said in Dade City: "By the actions of the Lake county sheriff let every Florida citrus worker now take notice how far some will go to cram wage cuts down your throats. The only way to stop this and the wage cuts is —ORGANIZE."



WHAT THIRD ROUND?

By Joseph Califf

Heralded by full-page advertisements and daily editorials in the newspapers, Big Business has launched a "crusade" to beat inflation.

Looking at 1947 profits one might expect that since our leading industrialists seem to be so worried about inflation they would decide to cut prices and ease up a little on gouging the public. But that is not their solution. Their solution is much simpler and less painful to themselves. It is summed up in a recent editorial in the New York Journal of Commerce as follows:

"The way to hold the line against inflation is to resist the coming demand for a third round of wage increases."

The bosses are going to save the workers from inflation by saying "no" to their wage demands. The "no" is accompanied by pious statements about industry's duty to the public and assurances that "we're doing what's best for you, whether you realize it or not."

This proposition that wages cannot be raised now without increasing prices is untrue. It is just as phony as the propaganda the National Association of Manufacturers used to kill the OPA back in 1946, when they said that the way to bring prices down was to first put an end to price control.

In the first place, it isn't true that there have been two "rounds" of wage increases followed by price increases since the end of the war. Actually, prices have risen almost continually ever since OPA was wrecked nearly two years ago. There is no relationship in either timing or amount between wage increases and price increases during this time.

For every raise in wages, prices have been increased many times over. Take the recent increase in steel prices — an increase put into effect, incidentally, before the Steelworkers Union had even asked a pay raise. Since November 1946, steel prices have gone up $16.69 a ton, including the recent $5.00 increase on semi-finished steel.

During this time the steelworkers got one 15c an hour wage increase. The price increases put into effect by the U. S. Steel Corporation during this period were four times the amount necessary to cover that wage increase.

Or to come a little closer to home, price increases have been greatest in the food industry. Was this caused by the wage increases won by food workers? Between June 1946 and December 1947, average weekly earnings (including premium pay) of food workers increased $41.09 to $51.00, about 24 per cent.

But wages represent at the most 8.6 per cent of the value of the food products manufactured by these workers. Therefore, to completely absorb this wage increase the food manufacturers would have had to raise prices only 2.1 per cent at the most (24 per cent multiplied by 8.6 per cent).

Yet the BLS Wholesale Price Index shows a 58 percent increase in food prices in this period. In other words, the food companies raised prices 28 times the amount necessary to cover the wage increase.

Badly needed wage increases now are no excuse for further price increases. Profits before taxes for food corporations in 1947 were about $2,255,000,000, judging from the reports of food companies which have published their 1947 figures so far. In the prewar years 1936-39, food industry profits averaged $442,000,000.

We could thus allow these companies TRIPLE their prewar profits ($1,326,000,000) and they would still have $929,000,000 in profits over and above this amount to put into wage increases.

This would be enough money to give a raise of $774 a year, or more than 37 cents an hour, to every one of the 1,200,000 workers in the food processing industry.

The cry that industry is resisting wage increases to protect the public and the workers themselves from further price increases is nothing but a brazen attempt to divert attention from the latest "round" of profiteering.

The present attack on wage demands has another angle. The bosses not only claim falsely that if a particular company raises wages it will have to raise prices. They also say they're afraid the workers will use the wage increases to go on a mad buying spree and, in the words of the General Electric Co. in a recent ad, "put extra pressure on the bidding up of prices of already scarce items."

GE calls for "some temporary self-denial, if necessary, until values get better." This is an echo of Senator Taft's "eat less" philosophy. The ad doesn't mention what kind of "self-denial" GE is practicing. It doesn't mention that GE's 1947 profits were at an all-time record, more than double what the company made in 1946.

If the bosses are really interested in holding the line against inflation, here, without charge, is a formula guaranteed to get results: reduce prices and shell out some of the enormous profits of the past two years to raise the wages and restore the purchasing power of American workers.

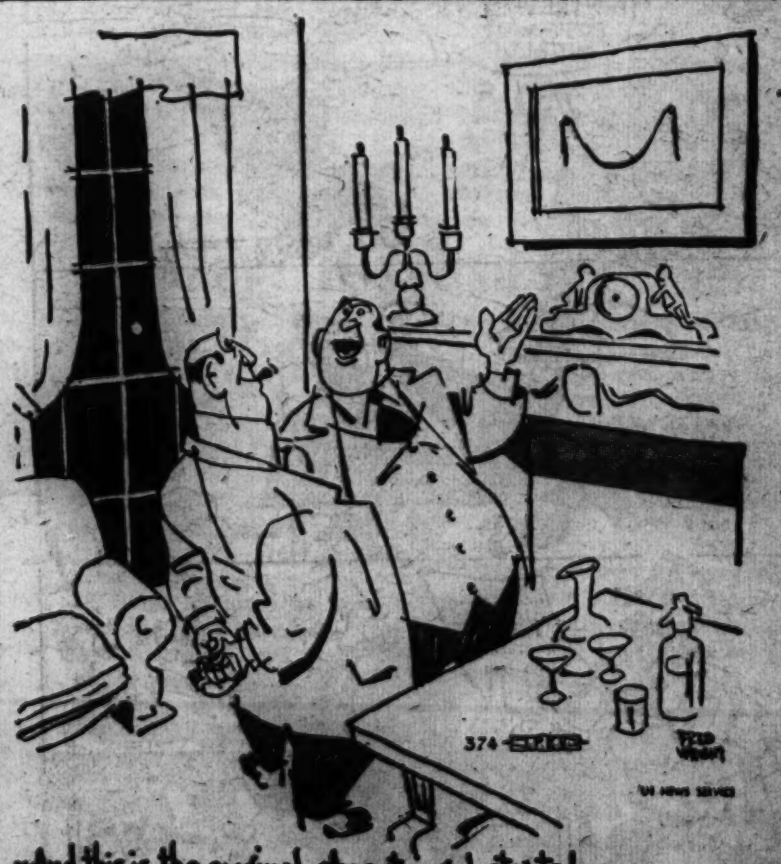
What Profits Would Buy

A vivid glimpse of the real meaning of tobacco trust profits is given in the April 5 issue of the "Polar Bear," publication of FTA Local 55, Middletown, Ohio. The paper is discussing a reported $24,000,000 profit coming into the P. J. Lorillard Co.

"We all know that last year's profits for the P. J. Lorillard Co. amounted to the unbelievable and staggering sum of $24,000,000 with taxes.

"Did you ever stop to think how much that is? It would buy all members of Local 55 a home, two new automobiles, frigidaires, washing machines, a suit for every day in the year or a new dress as often as you could wish.

"You could tour the U. S. and the rest of the world and come back and live on Easy Street the rest of your life. It would even be better than winning a walking man contest."



--and this is the original shoestring I started on--

Bankers And Generals

The FTA Executive Board resolution, unanimously adopted in January, said: "Neither the White House nor the Republican leadership in Congress offers the slightest hope of controlling big business and the monopoly trusts now leading the country to an economic crash.

"President Truman has brought the agents of Wall Street into his cabinet, where they hold the most responsible positions in domestic and foreign affairs."

These individuals, pictured and listed below, are now leading the headlong drive toward World War III. Why do they want a huge arms budget and a new war? They want it because the big banks and corporations they front for make money out of war.

War is the most profitable enterprise that big business has ever found.

In Roosevelt's time the big corporations made billions of profits out of war because they refused to let a wheel turn unless profits were guaranteed.

As a Senate investigating committee (TNEC) said in 1940: "Speaking bluntly, the government and the public are 'over a barrel' when it comes to dealing with business in time of war or other crisis. It controls the natural resources, the liquid assets, the strategic position in the country's economic structure and its technical equipment and knowledge of processes."

Big business profiteered all throughout World War II. Reactionaries of both parties in Congress helped the profiteers as they went through America's pockets. Taxes on corporations were lowered; wages were frozen; prices were forced up.

After the war, the businessmen really moved in. They told Congress and Truman what they wanted, and both delivered.

Republicans and Democrats moved to kill what was left of price control. GOP and Democratic Congressmen passsed the Taft-Hartley act. They killed housing, wrecked rent control, repealed excess profits taxes, cut taxes on the rich and refused to do anything about civil rights. Right now they're busy wrecking social security and the wage-hour act.

When Roosevelt was alive, he took bankers and brasshats into his administration because they flatly refused to work to win the war unless he did. But Roosevelt made them work for the people, not against them.

When Truman came in, he fired everybody who wasn't a banker or a brasshat and let Wall Street and the military take over lock, stock and barrel.

The pictures below and the listings on this page show how the bankers and the brasshats have come into control of this country through Truman and the "bi-partisan" foreign policy.

These are the men who are planning to spend billions and billions of taxpayers' dollars for arms. These are the men who want our youth for military training. These are the men who represent super-profits.

And all the time Truman sat back in the White House and did nothing to stop them. His veto of the Taft-Hartley act was a phoney. He made no attempt to mobilize his own party to vote against it. Truman has fired every Federal agency head with a trace of belief in the New Deal or in Truman's own "liberal" speeches, for that matter. Truman's civil rights program remains a matter of words and wind.

But both Truman and the GOP-Democratic alliance in Congress have been models of energy and speed when it comes to spending your money for arms.

The aircraft industry was almost on its way to bankruptcy by the beginning of this year. A lot of important banks have investments in the aircraft industry. So—Truman and Congress whip up a war scare and we have a three billion dollar airplane program for the army and navy.

The shipbuilding industry, the steel industry, all manufacturing, including food and tobacco, fear a depression because prices are too high for people to buy.

So what do Truman and Congress do? They whip up the Marshall Plan under the mask of fighting "communism" and the manufacturers sell billions of dollars worth of high priced goods abroad, on a take-it-or-else basis.

All done under the magic formula of the red scare and the war scare. Truman and his big business friends have worked these two rackets to perfection.

Only one party and one candidate for President stand out against this drive for super-profits at the people's expense.

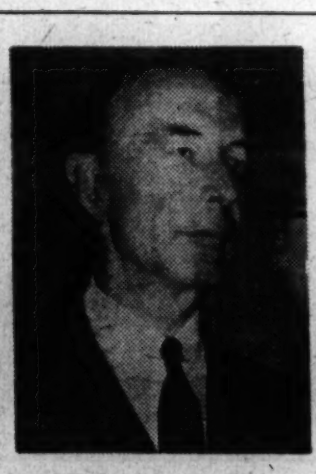
The party is the Progressive Party.

The candidate is Henry Wallace.

James V. Forrestal, *Secretary of Defense.* President, Dillon, Read & Co., Wall St. banker, lent millions to Mussolini's Italy and Hitler's Germany.

W. Averell Harriman, *Secretary of Commerce.* Railway owner, director Brown Bros., Harriman & Co. Wall St. banker, director of railroads, magazine owner.

Gen. George C. Marshall, *Secretary of State,* former Chief of Staff. Lifelong army man, no experience outside armed forces brass. Friend of big business men, wants huge arms for U.S. only.



Robert A. Lovett, *Undersecretary of State,* banker (Brown Bros., Harriman). Acts in Marshall's place when Marshall is out of the country.

Admiral William Leahy, *Chief of Staff* to President Truman. Lifelong Navy man, was U.S. ambassador to French fascist Marshal Petain in early part of war.

John W. Snyder *Secretary of the Treasury.* Banker, First National Bank of St. Louis, Mo. and others. Responsible for many inflationary policies of Truman administration.

Vice-Admiral Wm. Smith, *Chairman, U.S. Maritime Commission,* Lifelong Navy man, Smith has given hundreds of U.S. ships to fascist governments, cost thousands of seamen their jobs.

John Foster Dulles, *Adviser to State Dept.* Wall St. corporation lawyer, adviser to German trusts and cartels. Now actively pushing rebuilding of German war industries for World War III.

General Lucius Clay, *Commander, U.S. Occupation Forces* in Germany, lifelong army man. Clay recently announced there would be no more Nazis arrested or tried for war crimes in Germany.

William H. Draper, *Undersecretary of the Army.* Banker, Dillon, Read & Co. Draper works directly under his old boss from Dillon, Read—James V. Forrestal, Secretary of Defense.

Dwight P. Griswold, *Chief of U.S. Mission to Greece.* Banker, 1st National Bank. Griswold gives the orders to Greek puppet government to execute strikers.

W. Stuart Symington, *Secretary of Air Forces.* Manufacturer, Emerson Electric Co. which fought the UE bitterly for years. His department hands out the juicy aircraft orders.

(Pictures courtesy Fur & Leather Worker)

283.8
Un33
Copy 1

LIBRARY
CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
★ MAY 4 - 1948 ★

FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA — CIO

Vol. VIII, No. 4 April, 1948 Price 5 Cents

Halt The Drive To War!

A handful of bankers and generals in high places in Washington is driving our country toward war.

World War III, if it comes, will destroy millions of lives, countless billions of wealth and lay waste the greater part of the earth.

American homes will not escape destruction. American workers will die, their families broken and destroyed, their living standards ground down—if we allow the bankers and the generals to have their way.

Already the draft and compulsory military training are being shoved down the people's throats. Next comes forced labor for workers—forced labor at frozen wages.

Then comes the destruction of unions and the end of civil rights.

It's all there, in the plans of the bankers and generals.

Bernard Baruch, banker-speculator and "adviser to Presidents" has told Congress what to do to get forced labor.

Attorney General Tom Clark has told Congress what to do with civil rights—how to abolish them.

The generals, from Eisenhower on down, have told Congress what to do about our youth—conscript our boys and jim-crow them once they're in the armed forces.

Meantime, the attack on unions and living standards goes on. Congressman Hartley demands a more stringent Taft-Hartley act. The wage-hour law is to be wrecked. The greatest arms program in history is set to drive prices up beyond all reach. And the employers are refusing any wage increases.

All for what? Because the Soviet Union is going to attack us? Nobody believes that one, not even the generals and the newspapers that peddle it.

The reason for the war drive is summed up in one word—profits.

Profits today are higher than ever in history, but still the profiteers aren't satisfied. They want more and still more, and to get more they have to try to dominate the entire world.

They have to try to control not only the U. S. but also foreign markets, foreign raw materials, foreign peoples.

Hence the war preparation and the hysteria.

Let's hold on to our heads before we lose them. Let's tell the bankers and the generals—NO WAR!

And let's support the one party and the one candidate that show the way to peace and security—Henry Wallace and the Progressive Party now being built for victory in '48.

Police State Aim Of Bill

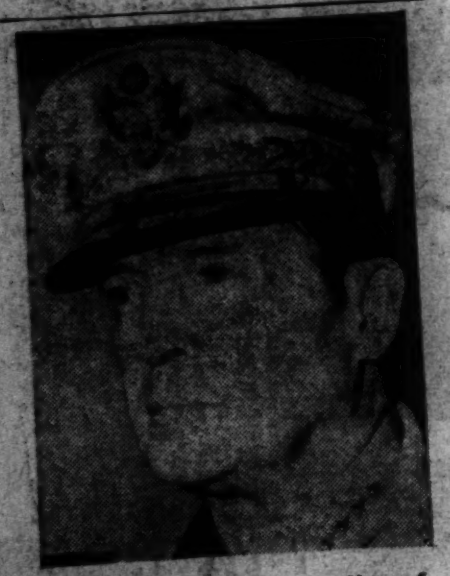
Moving under an "anti-communist" smokescreen, the House un-American Activities Committee has prepared a bill that can be used to jail workers who go on strike for a wage increase, who campaign for a new party and for peace, or who belong to any organization that one man, the Attorney General, declares to be subversive.

According to the bill (HR 5852) now about ready for House action, it is a crime to "conspire to disrupt trade, commerce or government in the U. S. with intent to further objectives of the world communist movement."

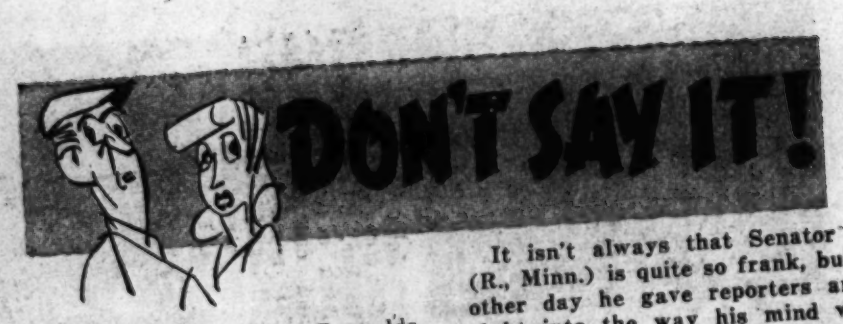
Any worker who has been on strike knows that this cry of "conspiracy" and "world communist movement" has been used over and over again in strike situations, and will be used now if workers are forced out on strike to win wage increases.

Other sections call for the outlawing of so-called "front organizations" to be defined by the Attorney-General. Already nearly 90 organizations have been called subversive, including civil rights groups, fraternal organizations, etc. The Attorney-General indicated in testimony on the bill (see FTA News, March) that he was going to broaden the list to include unions he disapproves of.

The bill is being readied for a quick trip through Congress. Write your Congressman now. Tell him to vote against HR 5852. Tell him to keep America free.



At the bottom of the list of GOP presidential hopefuls went the "Gold Hat" himself — Gen. MacArthur, whose Hearst-made boom collapsed in Wisconsin and Nebraska primaries. MacArthur is the only candidate for the nomination with the distinction of having spontaneous anti-MacArthur - for - President clubs formed by veterans as soon as he put his hat in the ring.



Campbell Soup, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco and other firms, big and little, that FTA workers bargain with have one refrain on wage increases—"NO." Some of them vary it a little — seems that increased wages are bad for workers, or they mean inflation, or the company hasn't got the money, but they all add up to the same answer—"No." Of all the alibis, the one we dislike most is the line about increases being "bad for workers." What with profits the way they are, this takes the prize for all-out gall.

* * *

The General Eisenhower "boom" first depended on the fact that nobody knew where the general stood. That, the anti-Wallace strategists reasoned, was why Ike would make the perfect President. Now Ike has upset this little applecart by coming out for continuing jim crow in the army. Loud mutters of anguish were heard clear across the Potomac when the general produced this one.

* * *

You've heard about the "iron curtain," "the totalitarian state" and the like. Now comes a Republican Congressman, Rep. Gwinn of N. Y., with the "devil state." The devil state, it appears, happens when you have a minimum wage law on the books. Cheer up, Congressman, you and your colleagues are doing your best to drive the devil out of the U. S. A. in your moves to wreck the wage hour act.

* * *

More yachts for the rich is the pleasing prospect the Wall Street Journal finds in the new tax bill that saves the $500,000 a year executive $50,000 in income taxes while giving the $50 a week worker about a $1.28 tax reduction. "How many yachts will crystallize out of the new tax measure," the Journal asks. "To a toiler with a $500,000 income, the bill means he can keep $50,000 or more than before. An executive in the $20,000 range can get nearly the price of a Buick out of his $2,000 added income."

* * *

U.S. factories are being surveyed by military authorities for possible war production. A number of big canneries have been looked over lately, as well as clothing firms, radio plants, etc. War is good business—for those that own businesses.

It isn't always that Senator Ball (R., Minn.) is quite so frank, but the other day he gave reporters an insight into the way his mind works on legislation of concern to workers. Hearings were being held on a bill to raise compensation to injured longshoremen. Two shipowner representatives were testifying. As they finished, Ball leaned over and said loud enough for all to hear: "May I suggest that you remain around after the hearing so that we can talk informally about what to do with this bill?"

* * *

"OFFERS CITY TO REAL ESTATE BROKERS"—headline in Philadelphia paper. We thought they had it all along.

* * *

The Japanese government is thinking of passing a Taft-Hartley law. It would seem the Japanese have been punished enough. First we give them the atomic bomb, then MacArthur—and now Taft-Hartley.

* * *

American business ingenuity leads the world, say the NAM ads. The U.S. Patent Office is full of such records of business ingenuity. Here's one dug up by "Facts for Farmers," monthly publication of Farm Research: Patent No. 1,158,934 was issued in 1915 to the Ward Baking Co., biggest of the bread trust. It "lends itself particularly to economy of manufacture," the application said. Secret was the use of calcium phosphate in the bread. Calcium phosphate is, in plain language, plaster of paris. Plaster of paris, of course, is cheaper than flour.

* * *

Abraham Lincoln had a word for it—a word that is usually forgotten by Republican orators, especially around election time. This is what Honest Abe said on one occasion: "There has never been but one question in all civilization—how to keep a few men from saying to many men: you work and earn bread and we will eat it."

* * *

This month's prize for the most unsensational statement of the day goes to the headline writer in a New York paper who came up with this: "TAFT CHARGED WITH POLITICS BY McCARTHY."